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Arms Show NEWS

IDELF-2006 official daily magazine

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IDELF-2006 involves 400 Russian and foreign exhibitors

400 enterprises and organizations from the Russian defense industry and 32 foreign countries are taking part in the International Defense Exhibition of Land Forces (IDELF-2006).

«The present show will be an important event in Russia. It allows positive trends in our industry and our partner capabilities in the development of the military-technical cooperation to be seen», Mikhail Dmitriev, Head of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC), said on its opening.

In his words «the exhibition will foster the strengthening of business relations with our partners and further expansion of military-technical cooperation».

IDELF-2006 has been organized under the auspices of the Russian Ministry of Defense with the participation of the FSMTC. Its exposition displayed in the All-Russian Exhibition Center's sites and pavilions comprises more than 10,000 models of military equipment and armaments. Among the newest defense products are assault APCs, a highly mobile army multi-purpose automobile, the Khrizantema-S self-propelled anti-tank system, as well as upgraded tanks, including a light amphibious tank, and infantry fighting vehicles. The exhibition will last till 6 August. Demonstration of armaments and military equipment in action at the Krasnoarmeysk-based NII Geodezia firing range (Moscow region), will be one of its highlights.

ASN

Opening ceremony of IDELF-2006

RUSSIAN DEFENCE EXPORT

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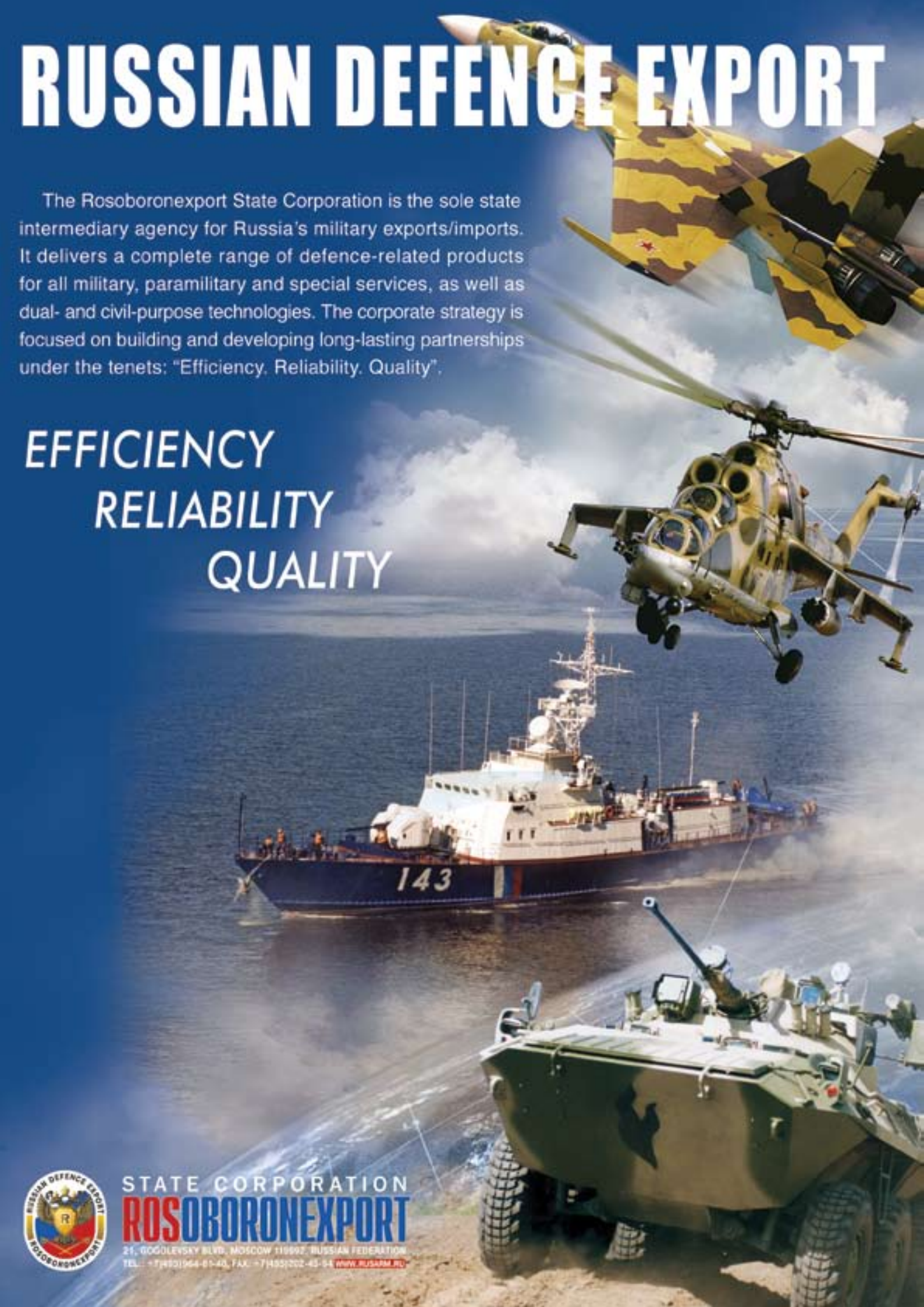

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Ceremonial guard mounting of the Presidential Regiment foot and cavalry guards

Advisor to Russia's President Aleksandr Burutin (center), Director of FSMTC Mikhail Dmitriev (second from left) and Deputy Director of FSMTC Vladimir Paleshchuk (extreme right) during a walkaround through the exhibition

Advisor to Russia's President Aleksandr Burutin and high-rank generals at the opening ceremony of the IDELF-2006 exhibition

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IDELF-2006 - a meaningful event that strengthens Russia's image as the world leader in defense production and arms exports

Vladimir Shvarev

The International Defense Exhibition of Land Forces (IDELF-2006) is a meaningful event that strengthens Russia's image as the world leader in defense production and arms exports. A statement to this effect was made by Vladimir Paleshchuk, deputy director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation. In his words, «the very special feature of the I DELF-2006 is that it is held as a large-scale comprehensive function of Russia's defense industry. Its conduct completes the creation in Russia of a network of major international military shows».

At the same time V.Paleshchuk noted that «the timeframe of the IDELF is not quite felicitous since it coincides with the period of mass holidays. This is so because initially this exhibition was tied to the timeframe of the MAKS show. It has become evident that the exhibition date must be changed. Practically it is almost decided that the next IDELF will be in late May – early June 2008. The decision needs only to be formalized».

The second job, according to V.Paleshchuk, is to hold those exhibitions in different years. «In course of the current exhibition consultations will be held with organizers of the Nizhniy Tagil show over its transfer to an odd year. I think that such a decision will be made. The ultimate network of major exhibitions in Russia will be created by 2008, once we start building an integrated facility in Zhukovsky. At issue is the Rossiya transport and exhibition complex. Its construction is for us a top priority», said V.Paleshchuk. **ASN**

Deputy Director of FSMTC Vladimir Paleshchuk

By 2015 the Airborne Force' operational capability will grow tenfold

Vladimir Shvarev

According to the national 2007-2015 arms procurement program, by 2015 the operational capability of the Airborne Force will grow tenfold. This has been revealed by Col Gen Alexander Kolmakov, Airborne Force Commander. In his words, «In terms of operational capability, by 2015 we shall become a totally different service armed with the latest models of military hardware».

The Airborne Force has already started receiving new equipment, communication systems and gear. Among them are Bakhcha-U BMD-4 assault vehicles that increase threefold the paratroops' operational capability, 125mm Sprut-D self-propelled anti-tank cannons, Kornet ATGWs, 12.7mm Kord machineguns, AGS-30 grenade launchers, 7.62mm Pecheneg machineguns, and GLONASS satellite communications receivers. Notably, in each troop unit each paratrooper gets an individual radio communications gear. The equipment and arms are being improved for effective fighting at night and in highlands.

The contract service system is being introduced for the manning of the Airborne Force. By 2008, the Force will be fully manned by contract servicemen.

The organizational structure and manning system of the Force are being optimized. In addition to the paratroop units, the Force will obtain assault and alpine troops. A battalion becomes able to fight on its own since it is provided with an artillery battery and a reconnaissance platoon.

According to A.Kolmakov, «already, it has become possible to transport by air a sufficient quantity of assault units for neutralizing any local conflict».

The opening day of the IDELS-2006 coincided with the 76th anniversary of the formation of the Airborne Force. Over that time, the Airborne Force has turned from separate small units into an independent mobile service, a reserve of the Commander-in-Chief. The normal personnel strength of the Force, an armed forces component on a permanent alert, is 34,000 troops.

At the IDELF-2006 the Airborne Force demonstrates some 30 types of arms and military equipment, including small arms. Displayed at the All-Russian Exhibition Center are equipment and support systems of a paratrooper company. The fighting capabilities of the Airborne Force will be demonstrated at the Krasnoarmeisk-based Geodeziya firing range, Moscow region. **ASN**

Commander of Russia's Airborne Forces Colonel General Aleksandr Kolmakov

Director of the Federal Defense Order Service Sergey Mayev

Pricing and standardization of defense products need regularization

The priority task facing the Federal Defense Order Service is to establish order in pricing and standardization of defense products, according to Sergei Mayev, Director of the Service.

In his words «an interdepartmental conference held recently has outlined approaches to establishing order in the field of standardization of defense products. This is a challenge because the respect for standards has been lost, whereas the standard is a basis for the quality of products. A lot of hard work lies ahead».

Another problem in the customer/contractor relations that needs to be adequately addressed is a pricing policy with regard to new kinds of armaments and military equipment. Mayev thinks that «following the renunciation of a state-controlled economy, the issue has been until recently overlooked. I agree that the market dictates its rules, but the players must demonstrate civilized behavior on the market, which unfortunately is not the case in Russia. So a serious work is needed to accommodate differences between the customer and the contractor in defense product pricing. The Defense Order Service is tasked with pricing control, whereas the Federal Service for Rates and some other government structures should define a policy in the area. No serious results have been achieved here to date».

ASN

A new armament program is aimed to rearm continuous alert units

«A new armament program will not certainly solve all problems, but we expect a substantial growth in equipment of units being on continuous alert, because the program is targeted at rearming precisely these units of the Russian army. If the program is implemented to the full, motorized rifle and armored units being on continuous alert will be completely reequipped with new and upgraded armored vehicles by 2010», colonel general Vladislav Polonsky, Chief of Main Tank Directorate told ARMS-TASS Agency.

In his words this year's state defence order for the Uralvagonzavod plant consists of two main battle tank battalions – one T-90S battalion (31 new vehicles) and one battalion of fully upgraded T-72M1 MBTs brought up to the T-90S level (also 31 vehicles). The same trend in state defence order for Uralvagonzavod will continue in 2007.

Polonsky said, «the state defence order in 2006 for IFV includes 3 battalions (a total of 93 vehicles). Largely, these are the BMP-3 IFVs, the rest – new BMP-2 vehicles. As to assault combat vehicles, the BMD-3 fleet is undergoing upgrade for the present. The BMD-3 vehicles are upgraded through installation of a new Tula-based KBP Instrument Design Bureau - developed combat compartment, the Bakhcha, and brought up to the BMD-4 level. In addition, a new BMD-4 vehicle was launched into production this year, with a pilot batch of 5 vehicles ordered».

As Polonsky noted, «the Russian army operates a large fleet of the T-80 MBTs. The fleet is being upgraded at KBTM (Design Bureau of Transport Engineering) facilities, but the upgrade rates are low. The plan for 2007 includes refurbishment of one tank battalion, which is certainly too little for the plant».

«Under the new armament program, annual orders for MBTs and IFVs during the first five years will be maintained at 2006 level, and following 2010 it is planned to increase orders for armored vehicles», Polonsky said.

ASN

Vladislav Polonsky, Chief of Main Tank Directorate

Kurganmashzavod JSC: today and tomorrow

Elena Laskina

Kurganmashzavod JSC is one of the largest and constantly developing enterprises of the Russian Federation defense industry. It is the sole manufacturer of infantry fighting vehicles (IFV) in Russia. The legendary BMP-1, BMP-2 and BMP-3 produced in Kurgan city are well-known all over the world and their reliability and combat efficiency has been proved by employment in numerous military operations and various climatic zones.

Today Kurganmashzavod JSC is one of the greatest exporters of light armoured vehicles. The company carries out constant R&D work aimed at improving the performance characteristics of BMP family vehicles. There have been created comprehensive upgrade packages for BMP-2 and BMP-3 IFVs to improve their fire power, protection and mobility.

The International Defense Exhibition of Land Forces (IDELF-2006) at this time includes an indoor exposition of Kurganmashzavod JSC with computer presentations of BMP-2 and BMP-3 vehicles and their upgraded elements, video films and plenty of information for the customers.

BMP-2 IFV is one of the basic armored vehicles in the Land Forces of Russia and many other countries due to its combat efficiency, simple design, and high reliability. Nevertheless, Kurganmashzavod JSC designed a comprehensive upgrade package for the BMP-2 vehicle aimed at improvement of its fire power, mobility, protection and ergonomics.

The vehicle fire power is increased due to improvement of fire control system with the installation of Rubezh sighting system with thermal imaging camera and TKN-AI commander's observation device with laser active-pulse illumination. These improvements increase target detection/identification range and accuracy of measuring the range to target.

The BMP-2 vehicle can be equipped with the automatic grenade launcher AG-17, which ensures different trajectory angles of fire and increased quantity of defeated enemy manpower.

Mobility of the BMP-2 vehicle is enhanced due to installation of a new UTD-23 engine and reinforced running gear. New turbocharged diesel engine increases specific power and average speed of movement on unpaved roads.

Universal driver's vision device TVK-1 increases the road surface visibility range and driving capabilities at night.

Auxiliary armor shields can be mounted to the sides of the hull and to the turret of the BMP-2 to enhance protection. The installation provides protection of the vehicle against 12.7-mm armour-piercing bullets fired at any angle from the distance of 150m.

Bottom protection of the engine-transmission compartment and the driving compartment (driver and trooper commander's seats) against destructing effect of antipersonnel mines is ensured by anti-mine bottom plates.

Employment of electronic assistant for the crew (EPVO) provides sound warnings to inform the crew about possible emergency situations and malfunctions in units, assemblies and vehicle systems.

The crew and troopers living conditions are improved by installation of the KBM-2 air conditioner, which ensures comfortable operation with ambient temperature up to +50°C.

BMP-3

BMP-2

After comprehensive upgrading the BMP-2 IFV efficiency increases dramatically in comparison with the standard vehicle. The upgrade based on modern requirements, real combat, production and maintenance experience, makes the upgraded BMP-2 IFV efficient, reliable, well-protected and lethal asset.

To keep pace with time and to meet the recently-arisen requirements, Kurganmashzavod JSC has also developed a comprehensive upgrade package for the BMP-3 IFVs. It includes mobility, protection, fire power and ergonomics improvements, i.e. better combat efficiency and survivability.

Mobility is enhanced due to installation of a new 660-hp UTD-32T turbocharged engine, and TVK-1 driver's universal vision device.

New UTD-32T engine significantly increases the vehicle specific power and the average speed of movement on dirt roads. It is fully adopted to operation in hot environmental conditions due to its forced cooling system.

Universal driver's vision device TVK-1 replaces formerly used TNPO-170A-day and TVNE-1B-night vision devices. It essentially increases the range of road surface visibility and driving capabilities at night.

Protection of BMP-3 increases dramatically during modernization. It is ensured due to installation of auxiliary armor shields for additional ballistic protection of the vehicle against 12.7-mm armour-piercing bullets fired at any angle from the distance of 150m. Another option is installation of add-on explosive reactive armor, covering 39% of the front sector and 62% of the side sector of the vehicle.

Fire power is increased by installation of new main gunner's sight SOZH-M, sighting system Vesna-K with thermal imaging camera and automatic target tracker AST-B, ATGM loading mechanism and TKN-AI commander's vision device. New types of ammunition also serve for enhancing fire power of upgraded BMP-3 IFV.

The upgraded BMP-3 IFV ammunition allowance can include new 100-mm HEF 3UOF19 and 30-mm APDS rounds as well as new ATGM missile. The fragmentation effect of 100-mm HEF projectiles and the penetration effect of 30-mm APDS projectiles are increased. The new ATGM missile 9M117M1 with tandem warhead features increased range and penetration capability, including ERA penetration.

Ergonomics is improved due to installation of EPVO electronic assistant for the crew, and air conditioner KBM-3M.

Electronic assistant for driver performs automatic control of chassis systems and assemblies parameters. It is also able to train the crew in vehicle maintenance.

KBM-3M air conditioner provides comfort life conditions for the crew at the ambient temperature of up to +50°, relative humidity of 45%, power take-off speed of 2850 rpm and operation of the air conditioning unit blower in the second mode. The air conditioner has freezing capacity of 7 kW (6000 kg-kcal/hr), which allows the crew and troopers executing of their missions during long period of time under adverse ambient temperature conditions.

These improvements increase dramatically the BMP-3 IFV combat efficiency and protection capabilities. That is why the upgraded BMP-3 IFV is a lethal and well-protected asset, which can resist any enemy. These vehicles are in service in the Russian army and there are going to be more. The project of State defense program presupposes purchase of over a thousand of such vehicles until 2015. This fact proves again that the vehicles produced by Kurganmashzavod JSC perfectly meet the criteria put to the modern and even future armored vehicles of this type.

Kurganmashzavod JSC is eager to offer the potential Customers both the supply of upgraded vehicles or different upgrade sets and renders assistance in upgrading BMP-3 IFVs.

The capabilities of the company are much wider than just manufacturing of the vehicles. Kurganmashzavod JSC can also perform joint R&D work in order to design and manufacture customer-tailored modification of the vehicle. Moreover the enterprise offers comprehensive delivery approach, including warranty and post-warranty services, spare parts supply, repair (including overhaul) and upgrading of previously supplied vehicles. There is also opportunity to train the customers specialists in operating and maintaining the BMP-3 vehicle. Kurganmashzavod JSC guarantees quality, reliability and timely logistics support. **ASN**

BMP-3

French Defense Ministry to procure Krasnopol-M guided artillery shells

Nikolai Novichkov

The French Ministry of Defense has revived its interest in the purchase of Russian-made KBP Krasnopol-M guided artillery projectiles for the national armed forces. The French Armament Procurement Agency DGA recently awarded Cilas a contract worth 24.6 million euros for the supply of KBP Krasnopol-M shells and Cilas DHY-307 ground laser designators.

Talks on the delivery of the 155mm Krasnopol-M laser-guided artillery projectiles for the French army's artillery systems have been underway for sufficiently long. Cooperation with French companies may help expand the market for its weapon system because it allows KBP to supply the Krasnopol to countries that traditionally use French-made 155mm artillery systems and equipment.

The first demo tests of the French-Russian Krasnopol precision artillery system took place as early as October 2000. The Krasnopol projectiles were fired from a GIAT TRF1 gun and targets were illuminated by Cilas DHY-307 laser designators. Both Russian- and French-made propellant charges were used.

Krasnopol-M

Russian and French militaries evaluated the compatibility between the Krasnopol projectile and TRF1 gun and between the projectile's SAL seeker and DHY-307 laser designator.

A total of five qualification shots with no preliminary fire were done: three shots against AMX tank targets, one against a concrete wall 50cm thick and one against a concrete bunker measuring 3,6 x 3,6 x 1,2m with 50cm-thick walls and 40cm-thick reinforced concrete ceiling. The firing range varied between 10.2km and 11.1km, and the targets were illuminated from 1.5-2.7km.

The test results surpassed all expectations. All the projectiles hit their targets. Particularly, all the three tanks placed 100 meters apart were hit on their top (least protected) area and were completely destroyed. The concrete wall and bunker were also completely destroyed.

The tests included also the evaluation of the target engagement capability without changing gun data. Direct hits were provided, with the gun's aiming point shifted 700-800 meters in range and 300-400 meters in horizon.

The test results had demonstrated the complete compatibility between the Krasnopol guided projectile and the TRF1 gun and DHY-307 laser designator thus proving the feasibility of a Russian-French precision artillery system and its promotion to NATO and third countries markets. Nevertheless, the project has not been revived until 2006. **ASN**

Venezuela to produce AK submachine guns under license

Vladimir Shvarev

In July this year Rosoboronexport signed a license transfer contract with Venezuela to manufacture the Kalashnikov submachine guns in the country. The contract totaling over US$ 400 million covers the construction of a plant in Venezuela where AK-103 submachine guns will be manufactured under license and a plant to produce 7.62mm cartridges.

Earlier, in May 2005, the sides concluded a contract to deliver 100,000 AK-103 submachine guns to Venezuela. The first batch of weapons under the contract was already supplied to the customer, and the whole contract will be completed by the end of the current year.

The license production of AK-103s in Venezuela will be organized as follows. During the first three years, Izhevsk-based Izhmash concern will supply sets of components for assembly of the AK-103 weapons. It is planned to produce 3,000 AK-103s in the first year and to bring the annual output up to 25,000 items during five years.

Later, when the process is fully established, Venezuela will produce 25,000 AK submachine guns a year. Under the license, the maximum annual output is restricted by precisely this quantity. On the whole, the license provides no restrictions on overall output of the AK submachine guns.

According to some data, in July this year Venezuela signed another contract worth US$ 52 million for delivery of an additional 100,000 AK submachine guns to bridge a time gap between the arrival of the first batch of 100,000 AK weapons and the beginning of supply of the licensed AK-103s. **ASN**

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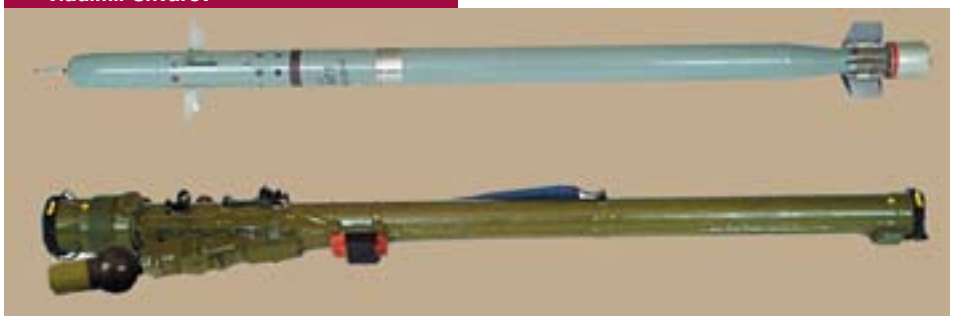
KBM's positions on the global arms market

Vladimir Shvarev



Portable air defense missile systems (MANPADS) rank first in KBM's (Kolomna-based Engineering Design Bureau) structure of exports in terms of potential sales. Recently, however, problems have arisen in the area because the US Department of State declared MANPADS to be a terrorist weapon. Rather serious, even Draconian measures have been taken to strengthen control of MANPADS deliveries, including embargo of their exports to several regions. This certainly has affected KBM, but nevertheless MANPADS holds the lead in terms of demand.

The Middle East, Southeast Asia and India are the most promising regions from a view of potential MANPADS deliveries. The Latin American countries have recently expressed great interest in this weapon. Formal request were have come from Brazil, Chili and Venezuela, and talks with them are under way.

One contract for transfer of a license to manufacture the Igla missiles was signed with Vietnam. Under the contract, production equipment and documentation were delivered and equipment installation work is under way. At the same time the contract schedule is being revised due to insufficient financing from the Vietnamese side.

KBM seeks to operate on the Vietnamese market with regard to several promising projects as an independent entity. A decision may be taken to finance a Khrizantema-related contract. Vietnam is also interested to install various launcher units on its patrol boats to provide the capability of firing the Igla missiles.

China, too, is viewed by KBM as a promising market. There are certain contacts with the Chinese side, but no specific contracts have been made yet. The Chinese militaries have long been interested in the Arena active defense system. Recently KBM received a formal request from the Norinco firm instructed by the Chinese MoD. The request was registered, and Rosoboronexport was assigned as a responsible party. Regarding the region's specifics, KBM and Rosoboronexport decided to join efforts. The Chinese side was handed over joint commercial proposals for tailoring the Arena system to a hypothetical tank. This may be a T-55-type tank, whose great numbers are in service with the Chinese army. But for the Arena proper this makes no difference. The Khrizantema system ranks second in China's priorities. Here, KBM, as a subject of military-technical cooperation, has its opportunities and plans and hopes soon to start talks on the system with China. **ASN**

KBM's positions on the arms market in Singapore

Elena Laskina

A contract to supply 440 Igla MANPADS signed in 1997 became Russia's biggest success on the arms market in Singapore. Late in June 1999 the Singapore Air Force successfully carried out firing tests of the Igla missiles at Overberg Toetsbaan Range in South Africa and assured itself in high performance of the Russian systems and their readiness for use by its air defense units. The Russian-made missiles struck targets simulating a fighter and a helicopter. Firings were made in the shoulder launched mode and from the Dzhigit salvo launcher unit. Contracts calling for the supply of 12 Dzhigit launcher units and work on installation of the Igla MANPADS module on a foreign-made chassis were signed in March and May 1997. The Dzhigits were delivered to Singapore in January 1999. In February 1999 a new contract was signed covering the delivery of target equipment and provision of technical assistance to the Singapore militaries in conducting field firings of the Igla missiles from the Dzhigit launcher units. In 1999-2000 the sides planned to secure a contract on license transfer and provision of technical assistance in arranging Igla MANPADS production in Singapore. A program of work envisaged assembly of 3,000 missiles during five years. However, the deal failed due to contraction of the market for this type of missiles in the Southeast Asian region following the 1998 financial crisis.

US M-113 APCs carrying the Russian Strelets systems took part in a National Day parade in Singapore in 2005.

Today KBM provides technical support of Dzhigit and Strelets systems supplied to Singapore. Talks on new contracts for both systems are under way. **ASN**

The Dzhigit MANPADS pedestal launcher is designed to carry two fire-ready Igla-type SAMs allowing one firer to aim and launch one missile after another or two missiles simultaneously. It is operable around-the-clock, can use external preliminary designation, and has the IFF capability.

The launcher is unique in terms of its capability to fire missiles in salvo which improves kill probability some 1.5 times.

Components of a kit used to mount the Dzhigit launcher can be tailored to the customer's specific platforms.

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